

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to application 10/596,780 filed on June 23, 2006 in which claims 1-26 are presented for examination.

Status of Claims

2. Claims 1, 4-11, 13, 16-23 and 25 are allowed, and claims 2-3, 12, 14-15, 24 and 26 are cancelled.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given via faxed by Mr. Bruce Bernstein (Reg. 29027) on October 29, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Rewrite claim 1 as follow:

"Claim 1. A data processing apparatus for reading, from a recording medium, content stored in a specified recording area of the recording medium and for playing back read content, the recording medium storing, according to a

specified format, content and management information for the content, the data processing apparatus comprising:

a content processor that reads the management information from the recording medium, and that reads the content according to the management information from the recording medium to process the read content;

a searcher that, when the content processor reads the content, searches for the content out of a specified search range, the specified search range being defined according to the specified format as a range for storing content to be reproduced, when the content is managed by the management information and not present in the specified recording area;

a link information setter; and

a management information storage that stores the management information read from the recording medium using an identification number specific to the recording medium to enable management of the management information,

wherein, when the content is found by the searcher, the link information setter updates link information for relating a recording area at which the content was found to the specified recording area so that the content is accessible using the management information,

wherein the management information includes play list information that specifies a playback sequence for playback of the content and track information, the track information including meta information relating to the content,

wherein the specified search range includes a recording area in the recording medium,

wherein the management information manages a content identifier (ID) that is identification information uniquely assigned to each of a plurality of contents, and

wherein the search searches for content to be played back using the content ID.”;

"Claims 2-3. (Cancelled).”;

"Claim 12. (Cancelled).”;

Rewrite claim 13 as follow:

"Claim 13. A data processing method for reading, from a recording medium, content stored in a specified recording area of the recording medium and for playing back read content, the recording medium storing, according to a specified format, content and management information for the content, the data processing method comprising:

reading management information from the recording medium, and determining the content to be played back according to the read management information;

judging whether if the determined content exists in a specified recording area in the recording medium;

searching a specified search range defined according to the specified format as a range for storing content to be reproduced, for the content, when the determined content is not present in the specified recording area;

updating link information relating a recording area at which the content was found to the specified recording area so that the content is accessible using the management information, when the determined content is found; and

storing the management information which is read from the recording medium, using an identification number specific to the recording medium, to enable management of the management information,

wherein the management information includes play list information that specifies a playback sequence for playback of the content and track information, the track information including meta information relating to the content,

wherein the specified search range includes a recording area in the recording medium,

wherein the management information manages a content identifier (ID) that is identification information uniquely assigned to each content, and the searching searches for the determined content using the content ID.”;

“Claims 14-15. (Cancelled).”;

“Claim 24. (Cancelled).”;

Rewrite claim 25 as follow:

"Claim 25. A computer-readable medium on which a data processing program is recorded, the data processing program causing a computer to execute reading, from a recording medium, content stored in a specified recording area of the recording medium and playing back read content, the recording medium storing, according to a specified format, content and management information for the content, the computer-readable medium comprising:

- a management reading code segment, recorded on the computer-readable medium, that reads management information from the recording medium,

- a determining code segment, recorded on the computer-readable medium, that determines to be played back according to read management information;

- a judging code segment, recorded on the computer-readable medium, that judges whether the determined content exists in the specified recording area of the recording medium;

- a search code segment, recorded on the computer-readable medium, that searches for specified search range defined according to the specified format as a range for storing content to be reproduced, for the content, when the determined content does not exist in the specified recording area;

- a link setting code segment, recorded on the computer-readable medium, that updates link information relating a recording area at which content was found to the specified recording area so that the content is accessible using the management information, when the determined content is found; and

a storing code segment, recorded on the computer-readable medium, that stores the management information read from the recording medium, using an identification number specific to the recording medium, to enable management of the management information,

wherein the management information includes play list information that specifies a playback sequence for playback of the content and track information, the track information including meta information relating to the content,

wherein the specified search range includes a recording area in the recording medium,

wherein the management information manages a content identifier (ID) that is identification information uniquely assigned to each of a plurality of contents, and

wherein the search coded segment searches for content to be played back using the content ID.”.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 4-11, 13, 16-23 and 25 are allowed.

Prior Art Matsushima teaches in the same field of the invention, a license management apparatus, and a recording and playback apparatus, and in particular an improvement in recording audio data which is obtained as a backup of packaged content recorded on a CD or a DVD-Audio; (see Matsushima; [0001]).

However, Matsushima does not explicitly disclose a searcher that, when the content processor reads the content, searches for the content out of a specified search

range. Matsushima discloses TKEs which have the same content ID are extracted. This means that it is possible to perform a search procedure that specifies a plurality of AOBs which correspond to the same content ID; (see Matsushiima; [0090]).

Whereas the claimed invention is claimed for "the specified search range being defined according to the specified format as a range for storing content to be reproduced" as shown in the independent claims 1, 13 and 25.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truong V. Vo whose telephone number is (571) 272-1796. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thr. 7:30a.m.-5p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vital Pierre can be reached on (571) 272-4215. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

October 30, 2009

Truong Van Vo

/Truong V Vo/
Examiner, Art Unit 2156

/Pierre M. Vital/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2156